

REMARKS

Claims 11-21 were pending in this application. By this Reply, claim 12 has been cancelled, claims 11, 13-17, 19 and 20 have been amended; and new claims 22-31 have been added.

In the Office Action, claims 11-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,644,534 (Sperlich) and under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,031,330 (Van Leeuwen).

The invention is a telecommunication station which transfers information between a base station and a secondary station. The telecommunication station transfers the data between both the base station and the secondary station using only a single selected frequency. The selected frequency has at least two transmit time slots and two reception time slots. For time synchronization with the secondary station, the telecommunication station transmits synchronization information to the secondary station. The claims have been amended to better emphasize these aspects.

None of the prior art, alone or in combination, in particular Sperlich and Van Leeuwen, disclose this combination of elements. Sperlich discloses a base station which transfers data to a group of substations using time slots. Sperlich does not disclose that any of the substations directly communicate with any station other than the base station. Van Leeuwen only shows a master station communicating with five (5) mobile stations. None of the mobile stations directly communicates with any other station excluding the master station. The time slot frame structure of Van Leeuwen only has one time slot for transmit

and one time slot for reception. The other two time slots, as shown in Figure 2, A1 and A2, are used for sending frame synchronization information (see Van Leeuwen, column 3, lines 13-40). Independent claims 11, 15 and 19 all recite "a transmitter which: (i) transmits synchronization information including the assignment of $2n$ fixed periodic time slots, where n is an integer greater than 1, on a selected frequency, n fixed periodic transmit slots for transmission from said telecommunication station and n fixed periodic reception time slots for reception by said telecommunication station; and (ii) transmits TX information to the base station and the secondary station on the selected frequency in a respective one of said n assigned transmit slots; and a receiver which receives RX information from the base station and the secondary station on the selected frequency in a respective one of said assigned reception slots" or analogous recitations. None of the prior art, in particular Sperlich and Van Leeuwen, discloses this combination of elements.

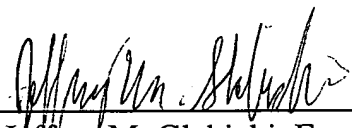
Additionally, dependent claims 14, 17 and 20 recite "the secondary station is positioned outside a communicating range of said base station at a remote location where a direct communication with said base station cannot be made" or similar recitations. None of the prior art discloses these elements in combination with their respective independent claims. Dependent claims 24, 28 and 31 recite "the primary station is transparent to the base station and the secondary station" or similar recitations. These elements allow the telecommunications station to be placed in an existing cell and to extend the range of the cell with minimal cost.

Applicants also noted that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 forms submitted with the October 5, 1999 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) were not included with the Office Action. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the IDS with the return receipt postcard is enclosed. Applicants respectfully request the initialed PTO-1449 forms be included with a subsequent communication.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are allowable. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss any unresolved issues. Reconsideration and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure